

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Pursuant to the proposed revisions to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a single version of all claims that are, or were, in the application, are marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claims, is now set forth, with deleted text shown in [brackets] and added text shown by underlining:

✓ Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Original) A method of securing freight, comprising:
 - a. affixing a composite material forming at least one strap for restraining freight to a surface of a transportation device, wherein the composite material comprises:
 - i. a first layer comprising a plurality of strands comprising yarn having an elongation characteristic within the range of about 2.5 percent to about 4.7 percent before breaking and a creep of less than about 2 percent after elongation; and
 - ii. a second layer of non-woven fabric comprising a substrate attached to the first layer;
 - b. positioning freight on the surface of the transportation device; and
 - c. securing the freight by wrapping the at least one strap around the freight.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein securing the freight further comprises joining a first end of the at least one strap to a second end of the at least one strap.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
a patch comprising a third end and a fourth end, wherein the third end is pre-attached to the strap at a contact section near the first end prior to installation around the freight.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein securing the freight further comprises:

- d. inserting a tool having a means for hold the first end of the at least one strap;
- e. clamping an arm of the tool to the second end of the at least one strap;
- f. rotating the tool until the at least one strap becomes generally taut;
- g. adhering a patch across an intersection between the first and second ends of the at least one strap using an adhesive; and
- h. removing the tool from the first and second ends of the at least one strap.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the adhesive for adhering the patch is a non-releasable adhesive.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein securing the freight comprises a single person using a tensioning tool to tighten the at least one strap around the freight and to secure the at least one strap in a tightened position.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein affixing the composite material to the surface is accomplished using a releasable adhesive.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the surface for affixing the composite material is selected from the group comprising a floor or a wall.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the composite material further comprises at least one reinforcement strap coupled to the at least one strap and positioned generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the strap and further comprises coupling a first end of the at least one reinforcement strap to a second end of the at least one reinforcement strap.

✓ Claims 20-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Original) A method of securing freight, comprising:
- a. positioning at least one strap, for restraining freight around at least one piece of freight, wherein the at least one strap for restraining freight comprises:
 - i. a first layer comprising a first end and a second end; and
 - ii. a patch comprising a third end and a fourth end, wherein the third end is pre-attached to the strap at a contact section near the first end prior to installation around the freight;
 - b. securing the at least one strap around the freight to create an intersection between one end of the at least one strap and another end of the at least one strap;
 - c. joining the first end of the at least one strap to the second end of the at least one strap;
 - d. placing the at least one strap under tension; and
 - e. adhering the patch across the intersection.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein placing the at least one strap under tension comprises:

- f. inserting a tool, having a means for holding the at least one strap, onto the first end of the strap;
- g. clamping an arm of the tool to the second end of the strap; and
- h. rotating the tool until the strap becomes taut.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the adhesive used to adhere the patch across the intersection of the ends is a non-releasable adhesive.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising affixing the at least one strap to a surface of a transportation device using an adhesive.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the at least one strap further comprises at least one reinforcement strap coupled to the at least one strap and

positioned generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the strap and further comprises coupling a first end of the at least one reinforcement strap to a second end of the at least one reinforcement strap.

✓ Claims 35-38 (Cancelled)

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39. (Currently Amended) A method for tightening a strap around a load of freight, comprising:

A. positioning at least one strap around at least one piece of freight, the at least one strap comprising a first end and a second end;

B. positioning a tensioning tool proximate to the first end and the second end, the tensioning tool comprising:

i. a body capable of being rotated and comprising:

a. a means for holding a first end of a strap; and

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b. a first head positioned at a first end of the body for receiving a torsion arm; and

ii. a clamp coupled to the body for holding a second end of the strap and comprising:

at least two clamp arms, wherein at least one arm is rotatably coupled to the clamp;

C. securing the first end within the at least two clamp arms;

D. placing the second end within the at least one [slot] strap; and

E. rotating the body.

40. (Currently Amended) The [device] method of claim 39, wherein the tensioning tool further comprises a cam rotatably coupled to the clamp and wherein securing the first end of the strap within the at least two clamp arms further comprises rotating and securing the cam.